

Appl. No. 10/086,340
Amdt. dated September 26, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2003

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 10-13 and 16 have been withdrawn in response to the Examiner's previous restriction requirement. Claims 9 and 14 has been canceled without prejudice.

In the Office action mailed June 26, 2003, the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims. Claims 1, 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,479,735. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,954,083. Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '083 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,027,537. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '083 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,062,553. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '735 patent in view of the '083 patent. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '735 patent in view of the '083 patent, and in further view of the '553 patent. Claims 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,620,579 in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,534,223. Claims 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '735 patent in view of the '083 patent, in further view of the '537 patent.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited prior art. Claim 1 has been amended to include the specific structure of the support means. The support means of claim 1 includes a first support member having attachment means for releasable attachment to a vehicle's towing hitch, and a second support member connected to the first support member

Appl. No. 10/086,340
Amdt. dated September 26, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 26, 2003

extending substantially perpendicularly therefrom. The base frame member is attached to the second support member so that the display is positioned above the towing hitch. Claim 15, the only other independent claim, recites a horizontal support member having attachment means for releasable attachment to a towing hitch on an automobile, and a vertical support member connected to the horizontal support member and extending upwardly therefrom so that the display is positioned above the towing hitch.

None of the cited prior art discloses or suggests the features of claims 1 and 15. Specifically, none of the cited prior art discloses or suggests a display support having two perpendicular support members, with one support member adapted for releasable attachment to a vehicle's towing hitch, and the other for mounting the frame members thereon. The "L" shape of the present invention's support means provides stability and allows the display to be positioned above the hitch at a height that is approximately eye level with other drivers. None of the prior art discloses or suggests these features of claims 1 and 15. All remaining claims depend on claim 1 or 15, and therefore, are likewise allowable. Furthermore, with respect to claim 8, the prior art does not disclose a second bracket connected proximate the top of the first and second side frame members, and an adjustable stabilizing member connecting the second bracket to the second support member to stabilize the frame members.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that additional issues remain for discussion, he is invited to

APPLICANT: ROOKER, ALEXANDER T.
SERIAL NO.: 10/086,340
PAGE: 9

contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen S. Ashley, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,394

Stephen S. Ashley, Jr.
ADAMS EVANS, P.A.
2180 TWO WACHOVIA CENTER
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28282
TEL: (704) 375-9249
FAX: (704) 375-0729
E-MAIL: ssa@adamspat.com
Confirmation No. 4103

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
SEP 29 2003

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office TELEPHONY CENTER 3600, Fax No. (703) 872-9326 on September 26, 2003. Date of Signature September 26, 2003

Signature


Karen Walker